







#### NOTICE.

AS THE MAIL newspaper and all its belongings pass into the hands of a joint stock company, on the first of the year, it is imperative that all the book accounts, subscriptions, etc., now due, be paid to the present publisher at once. We have waited year in and year out on many to pay up, and now we must have prompt settlements of all due. The crops have been good the past year and prices are fair, so that all who make an effort can readily pay the small amounts due us, and their total with the publisher makes a large amount. We trust this notice is all that will be required, as accounts have ere this been rendered to all in arrears.

C. CLIFFE.

#### BRANDON MAIL.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1890.

#### FIRE INSURANCE.

There is no longer any use in questioning the fact that there is a necessity in the public interest for revising the insurance business in Canada. It is fully understood, that, all things considered, insurance companies should have a margin of profit for safety, but few there are who really know the money that companies doing business in Canada are making out of the people. In England, money men are quite willing to lend on security at 4 per cent., and many of the companies doing business in Canada began operations by borrowing from those people, and the profits they are making are simply enormous. For instance, according to the returns made by companies doing business in Canada, the amount collected in the year 1889, from the people of Canada, was \$5,588,016, and the amount paid out in losses was \$2,876,211, leaving a profit of \$2,711,805, or nearly 80 per cent. on payments. It may be said it is unfair to select any one year, as the losses and profits vary, and it is only by average a proper estimate can be made. To meet these people we make the average. For the last 21 years the losses of the companies averaged but 70 of their receipts, leaving net profits of 29 per cent., and in that is included the heavy St. John's (N.B.) fire. Deducting that, the profits for that period would be 37 per cent.

In view of this, and especially in the face of the fact companies charge boom rates in Manitoba, or nearly double what they are in the eastern provinces, it is high time the provincial government took some steps to prevent the continuance of the imposition on the people of this province, and to relieve the public.

If there was a general act under which municipalities could do their own insuring, and the people availed themselves of its advantages, they could save themselves the loss of the thousands of dollars they are now needlessly putting into the pockets of English and Canadian insurers.

#### THAT LIBEL SUIT.

The more any properly balanced mind looks into the history of that libel suit of the Hon. Mr. Martin against the Free Press, the more evidence he must see of the general condemnation of the government by the country, irrespective of political party. Here is the charge that per made:

Now that the company has absconded from the province and left the government without any recourse, in so far as enforcing other conditions of the contract, Ministers began to realize that their sins are finding them out with a vengeance. They comprehend for the first time that the whole rascally business lies bare to any one who chooses to look. Even their dull intellects enable them to at last see that they are detected in the rankest piece of soundbaiting ever perpetrated in Canada. Not a man connected with it, either of the government or the Northern Pacific company, but would be in the penitentiary to day if he had his deserts.

The Free Press charged that the government, whose members had long yelled themselves hoarse against "railway monopoly," and declared something should be done to prevent the country from being sent to destruction by that monopoly, when they had the power in their hands to secure "competition" for the country let it slip through their fingers presumable because some members of the government profited financially by the intention of dereliction of duty. It declared the whole contract from its inception a "rascally piece of business" transacted of course by rascals; that the contract was "the rankest piece of soundbaiting ever perpetrated in Canada" by the rankest soundbaiters, of course; and that of the members of the government who were parties to this contract as well as their following in the House who promoted the contract would be "in the penitentiary to day if they had their deserts."

Mr. Martin made this a government case as to bring the weight of the whole government into the prosecution. By his right to challenge, he selected a jury according to his own wishes, and nine of the twelve, be it remembered, were poli-

ticians of his own stripe. Reformers at least, and they were sworn to do their duty. In the court Mr. Martin and the whole government for that matter, had the right to select their own witnesses, and the ministers, particularly Mr. Martin, who is a lawyer himself, and knows what is and what is not incriminating evidence, was only compelled to give whatever evidence he chose; and in the face of this nine out the twelve jurors, and eight of that number Grit, or the Free Press' accusation was not a libel—that in fact, it was only a proper criticism and a just conclusion in the interest of the country and the people. After this, what elector is there in the province who wants further evidence of utter corruption of the government, and their complete unfitness to longer handle the finances of the country?

#### POLITICS IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Ever after this the Grit party need never represent they are opposed to politics in municipal matters. It is on their introduction and use the faithful hope over all other agencies, to retain a footing in the country. They brought out a candidate against Councillor Speers in Cornhill but the opposition fizzled when he saw he had no show. In Whitehead Mr. Pilling, government official, and Mr. Sifton, M. P. P., the innocent non-partisan of western Manitoba, drove around together in a rig to secure the election of Mr. Loney, a new convert, to the Grit faith, and they succeeded through their joint influence in inducing 22 out of the 78 possible voters to vote for their new found Grit. No attempt was ever made to show Mr. Elliott had ever been derelict in his duty, or that Mr. Loney could improve on the official record of his opponent, but Mr. Loney had voted for Mr. Sifton, so the electors should support Mr. Sifton's friend. It was on a par with the Hon. H. Blake's letter about "my friend Moore". Mr. Elliott was not beaten by either Mr. Loney's, Mr. Pilling's or Mr. Sifton's influence but simply because he had no arrangements perfected, as his opponents had to bring out his vote. What we want the electors to remember is that when Mr. Sifton again tells them he is opposed to politics, in municipal elections, they will know what to tell him.

In the contest between Mr. Evans and Dr. McDiarmid in the city, the same political influences werefully in force. A limited few Reformers knowing Mr. Evans' strict attention to duty the past year cast their ballots for him, but the rank and file of the party voted for him, while a number of Conservatives who did not observe the trick, worked for the Doctor. At the close of the poll a local government official was heard to say " Didn't we Grits do it that time?" Mr. Evans had pledged to him 146 voters and he got but 105 votes. We are just as confident as we can be the effort on the part of the Grits to elect the Doctor was to run him for Mayor next year and for local member in turn knowing the waning influence of the city's present oligarchy in the Legislature. It is a fact that a stitch in time often saves nine, but some people fail to understand it until it is too late.

To the Editor of THE MAIL.

SIR: I see by your report of minutes of last meeting of the city council that the members of that august body "indulged in a laugh" at my expense, and your readers are led to infer that I had certified to the insinuity of some individual who afterwards proved sane. Had those whose math was excited taken the trouble to refer to my account they would have found that I was not examining a supposed lunatic, I referred it that is for certifying to the sanity and thereby effecting the release of a man who had been dragged from a bed of sickness and very unjustly committed to jail a lunatic. Under the circumstances I think the city might consider itself very safe in escaping with merely paying the doctor's fees, for I fancy if the person on whom this outrage was perpetrated by a city official, had known enough, the city would have been mulcted in heavy damages for the act.

Mistakes will occur, gentlemen, as you see in this case, there being as much cause for your cachinnation as the poor, silly inebriate has who laughs without knowing what he is laughing at. However, I trust you will have another hearty laugh and pay the trifling account as you have a right to do. In any case I wish you all a merry Christmas.

L. M. MURK.

The provincial immigration office at Winnipeg, gives the following returns as to the immigration into the province from the 1st of February to the 30th November:

Via Canadian Pacific Railway, 5,910

Via the Great Northern, 767

Via the Northern Pacific, 427

Total, 10,104.

The total number of carloads of household effects and stock was 641, of which 581 was from the east over the C.P.R., brought in over the N.P., and 35 cars via the Great Northern R.Y.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Victoria, Dec. 20.—Henry Grit, M. P. P., who was sent to Cowichan by the Government to report on the extent of the floods and damage done, returned to Victoria to-day. He says the reports published are not at all exaggerated. Every bridge in the district will have to be rebuilt. The waters are now receding and fear of further damage allayed.

#### DESTRUCTIVE PRAIRIE FIRES.

It is something unusual to have prairie fires during the month of December as before that time there is generally sufficient snow on the ground to prevent them. This, the exceptional year in many other respects seems also the matter of fires. The Deloraine Times gives a lengthy account of a serious fire that was burning to the west of the town last week. Townships 1 and 2 in ranges 27, 28 and 29 are mentioned as having suffered most during its continuance. The loss in buildings, hay, grain and stock has been very large. The Times gives the names of as many as a dozen settlers who suffered serious loss:

Ross & Maitland, 1-2-26, 20 tons of

K. Fanning, 24-1-28, about 12 tons of hay, and about 150 bushels of wheat.

F. McCormack, sen., 2-25, 800 and

several hundred bushels of wheat, and

some buildings.

W. Broxley lost his crop of wheat and a stable.

Meridith Bros., 2-28, lost grain, about 17,000 bushels of wheat, and all their hay. One of the Meridiths was in Deloraine at the time selling wheat, and did not know of his loss until he got home.

Piner, 2-28, had building and his grain destroyed.

G. Goodfellow, 32-1-28, lost ten tons of hay.

F. Fanning, on 10-2-28, ten tons of hay.

F. Fraser, 4-2-27, all his hay and stable.

At Mr. Leetham's, who keeps a stopping house on the Antler trail, they had a terrible experience with the fire. A young farmer named Cooper of Carievile, in trying to get his team out of the stable was burnt about the face, but saved his team. Mr. J. W. Cairns who had a team of horses in the same stable had them cremated, and Mr. Leetham who seems particularly unfortunate, having had a valuable team of horses stolen some years ago, lost his hay, some cattle and implements.

#### A GOOD IDEA.

This week's Commercial has the following to say in regard to finding a method of disposing of the damaged wheat of the country:

It would certainly be a great advantage to Manitoba if the railway companies could arrange to give a low rate for the shipment eastward of wheat only fit for feed. There is quite a quantity of this damaged stuff in the country, and as many farmers have not stock to feed it to, they must sell for some price. In a previous year a low rate was given on damaged wheat, and it is claimed that considerable wheat shipped from Manitoba for "feed purposes" eventually found its way to Ontario flour mills, and no doubt later appeared on the market as choice Manitoba flour. To obviate this difficulty it might be provided that the wheat should be crushed before shipment. At the present price in Manitoba of damaged wheat it could be laid down in Montreal at about \$20 to \$21 per ton and under, which is about the value of shorts in that market. In British Columbia markets ground feed is quoted at \$34 per ton. Though the market is limited in that quarter, yet no doubt quite a number of car lots of our damaged wheat feed might be shipped to the coast at a profit.

#### MAY BE A ROW.

REGINA, Assin., Dec. 20.—A detachment of thirty mounted police left town this afternoon at five o'clock for Piapot reserve, in response to intelligence that a number of Indian runners from across the border had arrived there, and another detachment of thirty left for the same place about nine o'clock to-night. Though the name of Gabriel Dumont has not been mentioned in connection with the present Indian troubles south of the line, a gentleman here probably as well acquainted as any in Canada with the inner life of the Indian population, says that Gabriel is at the bottom of the whole trouble.

#### SIOUX ALSO EXCITED.

MOOSE JAW, Assa, Dec. 21.—The Sioux Indians here and at Wood Mountain are greatly excited over the killing of Sitting Bull and a number of armed Indians have crossed the line. The Sioux craze appears to have reached them. Chief Black Bull, now at Wood Mountain, says the whites will soon be exterminated and the Indians have control of this country again and that those who have died will appear upon the earth in the form of buffalo.

#### DON'T MISS IT.

A new and attractive publication containing many useful, interesting and instructive features has just been issued by T. McLean & Co., of Toronto, under the title of the "Burdock Herald." It is a monthly magazine, and is in the hands of druggists and merchants for free distribution and we would advise our readers to secure a copy before the supply is exhausted.

#### FARMER'S INSTITUTE.

A meeting presided over by Mr. Bedford with Mr. R. E. Leech as secretary was held in the City Hall, Saturday afternoon for the purpose of organizing a Farmers' Institute, and to discuss the question of "Weeds." In all there were about 75 persons present, the bulk of whom were farmers. Mr. Waugh of the Farmers' Advocate read a long essay on the subject which considered summer following as the best means for the destruction of "the noxious." He considered ploughing when the weeds were in blossom with several subsequent harrowings and several ploughings, if the land was low and heavy, as the best means of exterminating weeds.

Mr. Bedford gave a full experience of the preparation of stock manure. It grows when other plants have been destroyed by frost. Was convinced different treatment of land should be adopted, according to the different elevations of the land, the lower requiring more plowing and harrowing. In clay the stirring must be frequent while harrowing will do on higher soil.

R. E. Leech raised the question of treatment according to the rainfall of the year.

A. Nichol, I. W. Vantassel and Mr. Graham, M. P. P. gave their experience in the matter.

John S. Elder, of Virden experimented

in several ways, usually as ploughed two

or three times and harrowed as often and then cropped three years first on the summer follow, next on surface sowing and again on ploughing before summer following again. Mr. Bartlett of the Farmers' Advocate gave his experience. A list of charter members was sent in and the institute is to be organized forthwith. In two weeks more (Saturday) the next meeting is to be held and the discussion will be on the best kind of seed wheat for the country.

#### ANOTHER MURDER.

GRETNA, Man., Dec. 21.—A fatal stabbing affray, the result of a drunken brawl occurred between ten and eleven o'clock last night at the Great Northern Hotel, Neeche, N. D. The row was between Michel Dumas, nephew of Michel Dumas of rebellion fame, and Nicholas Dumas, Dumas only living one hour after being stabbed. The dispute arose between these parties over some old matter that occurred three years ago. After some hot words Dumas struck Dumas with his fist, and upon Dumas retaliating Dumas pulled his knife, and with an upward thrust stabbed Dumas in the groin. An artery was severed, and Dumas died in an hour. The parties had been drinking freely. Lynching was talked of, but the murderer was marched off to the county jail at Pembina. Prohibition is in force in North Dakota but notwithstanding this the rule of liquor is carried on openly all over the state. More drunkenness is observed among the residents of Pembina county at present than at any former period in its history.

P. McEwen, C. H. Young, D. Leckie.

**WANTED.**  
A CARETAKER for the Presbyterian church in Brandon, duties to be performed, apply in writing or letter to Mr. McPherson, chairman of the Board of Management, corner Rosser Ave. & 8th street, who will explain the duties required. Applicants will please state salary expected. THOS. FINCH, Secretary

#### Wanted.

BY a man and his wife a situation as caretakers of a farm. Have had several years experience. Apply at this office.

#### WANTED.

A Warm room and Board in a private family. A where no other boarders are kept, prefer- Apply at THE MAIL OFFICE.

#### WANTED.

PANT and Vest makers also an apprentice. Apply to JNO. DAVIDSON, Shop—Rosser Avenue.

#### WANTED.

BY the Residents of Hartney, and vicinity a Large Boarding House or Temperance Ho- tels, there being no accommodation for the travelling public. Splendid opportunity.

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#### DAY BOARDERS WANTED.

A few day boarders wanted. Terms reason- able. \$3.00 per week. Apply to MRS. CASTLE, 10th st., behind new P.G.

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## TRAGEDIES ON THE COAST

A Victoria, B. C., special says: Bishop of Ridge's Chinese domestic was missing this morning at his regular hour for coming around. An investigation showed that the kitchen was spattered over with blood, and visions of another Chinese murder arose before the family's eyes. The Chinaman was discovered in a terribly mangled condition, he having made a desperate attempt at suicide. In his side was a terrible gash, while others lie he was horribly mutilated. It is not expected to recover.

KEPT BY A ROCK.

The Nelson (B. C.) Miner, says: A somewhat serious accident occurred on Todd Mountain on Monday. It appears that J. M. Fox, one of the owners of the Dandy, saw some runaway pack animals stampeding down the trail, and tried to head them off. In doing so he was kicked on the head by one of the mules; the animal's shoe tearing Mr. Fox's right ear almost entirely in halves, and cutting open his head.

Until Tuesday night no serious accident had happened on the grade of the Columbia and Kootenay railway, although the rock work required heavy blasting. On Tuesday last a blast was fired which resulted in the death of one of Selous and Lewis' men, Frederick Lewis, a piece of rock weighing 20 lbs., flying a distance of 300 yards, and hitting him in the back as he was trying to get out of the way. Medical aid was called, but the man died ten minutes after its arrival.

MURKIE AT PORT ANGLES.

A dispatch from Port Angeles, on the Pacific coast, says: About 2 o'clock this afternoon Mrs. C. A. Masson murdered by some unknown person.

She was killed evidently by an axe in front of her store, three miles west of the city near Bradshaw's mill. She was found by Frank Marchard and his companion, by men who were working near Mrs. Masson's house. Her head was split open, and the right ear nearly chopped off. She is about 21 years of age. Her husband went to Washington, B. C., about three weeks ago. She was living alone and conducting a small store.

A man was seen to run across the road with something looking like an axe in his hand. Marchard claims to have heard a shot, which attracted them to the spot. The appearance of the murdered woman was horrible. The murderer evidently tried to carry the dead woman into the house, as her dress was torn and shows marks of bloody hands. The officers and a number of men are scouring the woods, trying to find the murderer.

## HOW CANADA OUTWITTED BLAINE.

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—Hon. Chas. Tupper, minister of marine, who assisted Sir John Pannier in the Behring sea negotiations in Washington last spring, is taking an active part in the contest at South Victoria. In a speech at Naperville last night he said the Behring sea matter was one of the important issues before the council. Canada should show that it would not tolerate the hostile legislation of the United States, and as part and parcel of the British empire must insist on the right to navigate the high seas. Mr. Blaine, he said, proposed in the most megalomaniac manner that there should be a close season in certain months of the year, and that seads should be taken in the months of December, January, February and March; that the waters should be open to the Canadian seads in these months as well as to the American seads. This seemed a very plausible proposition, and the British government was about to accede, but Canada ventured to put in a word to show that the proposition was not quite so generous as it looked, much as during the months of November, December, January, February and March there were no seads. Through the timely action of the Canadian government, although the question has not yet been settled, Canada's seads has got the biggest catch last season they had ever had.

## ALL FOR TEN CENTS.

Chicago, Dec. 16.—Chicago will soon have the largest ten cent lodging house in the world. The building will be seven stories high, will cost \$80,000, and will be heated by steam and lighted by electricity. It will be built by the proprietor of the China Bell, Chicago's celebrated ten cent lodging house. The building which will be of stone and pressed brick and fire proof will fill the corner of Halton and Madison streets. The entire structure will be used for a dime lodging house. Each of the 300 rooms will be 7 by 6 feet, provided with iron bedsheets and hot and cold water. The floors will be of tile and the wall-surfacing will be marble. The office and reading room will be on the first floor. Scattered through the seven floors will be twenty bath rooms. Four elevators will carry the guests to their rooms. The basement will contain a laundry. It is expected the building will be ready for occupancy by April.

## LOVELACE WAS LOVEABLE.

Killarney, Dec. 15.—Constable Lovelace, of the N. W. M. P., Regina, got off on a month's leave. He came to Ninga last Thursday, and Friday night clodged with Miss Lime, of Wakopon. Search was made for the erring couple without success. They are supposed to have skipped across the line. He was stationed at Wakopon last summer and appears to have arranged the elopement by corresponding. Her parents forbade her having anything to do with him, as it is said he has a wife and children in Toronto, and is a bad character. Much sympathy is extended to the parents of the innocent. She will probably be deserted in a short time.

## \$40,000 BLAZE IN QUEBEC

Quebec, Dec. 16.—A fire broke out at 3 o'clock this morning in the heel and sole factory belonging to Blount. The loss is about \$40,000. The building was a three story brick structure and was the property of the seminary. It was totally destroyed.

## A GREAT FISTIC BATTLE.

New York, Dec. 16.—The forthcoming great fistic encounter at New Orleans under the auspices of the Olympic Athletic club, between Bob Fitzsimmons, of New Zealand, and Jack Dempsey, the champion middle weight of America, is exciting interest in sporting circles second only to that created by the Sullivan-Kilrain mill. Big delegations from this city as well as from Boston, Philadelphia, Buffalo and eastern points will journey to the Crescent City in the second week of January, according to present plans, to witness what promises to be one of the greatest glove contests of modern times. The articles of agreement provide that the contest shall be to a finish, Marquis of Queensberry rules, and to commence at nine o'clock sharp on January 14. Five ounce gloves to be used. The stakes are twelve thousand dollars, of which the winner will receive eleven thousand and the loser a consolation sum of one thousand. Both men will weigh in five minutes before the call of time at the ring, neither to weigh over or above 154 pounds. Betting has already been inaugurated with the odds in favor of Jack Dempsey.

## WILL NOT MEET MITCHELL.

New York, Dec. 16.—A London dispatch says that Ted Pritchard has declined for the present a proposition of the California Athletic club to meet young Mitchell, of the Pacific slope. Pritchard is already matched against Alf. Mitchell, of Cardiff, Wales, and if he is successful in sending his man to the grass, he will have to meet Jack Burke, who has issued a provincial challenge for \$2,500 a side. Pritchard says that after he has met Burke that whether he wins or loses, he will be ready to fight again.

## REGGIE PLEASED.

New York, Dec. 16.—A dispatch from London says that the squib last week on the trial and trial of Joe McArdle and Frank P. Slavin, who were arraigned on a minor indictment, charging them with having a glove fight for money in Ormonde club decides the question and it is perfectly legal to contend with gloves for paces in Great Britain. This question has been at issue for several years, and the decision is a great victory for the pugilistic talent, while it will give boxing and boxers a decided boom. A exception in honor of the two pugilists is said to have been over fifteen thousand dollars.

## CANADA'S STRONG MAN IN NEW YORK.

New York, Dec. 16.—The champion strong man of the world, Louis Cyr of Quebec, is in this city with a view of finding a man worthy of his strength. It is his first visit to the metropolis, and he is being lionized in athletic circles. The Quebec has the record of having lifted 3,639 pounds of pig iron without artificial means, although he has only passed his twenty-seventh birthday.

Mr. McLean, of the Attorney General's department, appeared for the prosecution, while the prisoners were defended by N. F. Haged, Q. C., and Mr. Bonner. Several witnesses were examined, and at its conclusion his worship thought a case had been made out and sent the accused up for trial.

Ottawa, Dec. 16.—The claim of Chas. Brenner, the Battleford halfbreed, for losses incurred during the rebellion, will be re-opened shortly by the Government. Sir Fred Middleton declared that on no condition would he pay any compensation to Brenner. Stewart Henderson, solicitor for the claimant, has interviewed the Minister of Justice several times during the past weeks. Henderson recently sent to the Governor-in-Council claiming on behalf of his client damages of \$15,755. The claim includes losses of furs, cattle, poultry, farming implements and crops. Henderson proposes to press the right of other claims.

## CHINA IS IN A BAD WAY.

London, Dec. 16.—Private advices from Pekin state that the Imperial government is in desperate straits for money but refuses to accept the offers of many millions from capitalists who have gone there from all parts of the world to obtain the handling of the Chinese loan. It is said that Li Hung Chang holds Japan up as a horrible example to the Emperor whenever the latter shows signs of a desire to call upon the westerners for assistance. The Japanese people have steadily declined in comfort and prosperity since the introduction of the so-called reforms, and though a number of prominent men are getting wealthy, the masses are in a lamentable condition. Whether this is due to the machinations of foreign adventurers or not, the Chinese statesmen are inclined to say regard it, and the result in the sister empire is not likely to hasten the day when China's policy of isolation shall be abandoned.

## FRANCE IS AFTER CONGO.

London, Dec. 16.—Advices from Paris state that the French government is bringing much pressure to bear upon Holland to prevent that country from acceding to the agreement of the powers permitting the Congo Free State to levy import duties. The time for acceding will expire on the first of January. The majority of France is ready, it is impossible for the Congo Free State to meet its expenses and thereby compel the State to sell out to France, which has the first claim to purchase. The British government, on the other hand is resorting to threats, more or less disguised, to compel it to sign the treaty.

## THREE DAYS IN A TRANCE.

Muncie, Ind., Dec. 15.—Mrs. Woodworth, the well-known trance evangelist, has returned to the scenes of the former triumphs. Her followers have established a church here. The other night Miss Ruth Hughes, aged 17, went into a trance at the Woodworth meeting and has been wholly unconscious for hours at a time, seeming perfectly lifeless. Miss Woodworth has appointed a body guard, with instructions to permit no person to touch her, claiming that "God has placed her there and at His command she will recover." Since 6 o'clock Wednesday night no nourishment of any kind has been given the girl. Her face is badly swollen and many think she will die. She went to the altar from her work when she was struck down. The girl's father is irate, and says she will never enter his house. Great excitement prevails about the case and force may be used to remove her from the church, where thousands are watching her proceedings.

## GENERAL NEWS.

Bombay, Dec. 17.—A house in the native quarter of the city collapsed today. It contained at the time of the accident one hundred inmates, thirty of whom were killed and many injured.

Calgary, Dec. 17.—At the council meeting the master of the police difficulty came up, when it was resolved that both constables Dillough and Barker be dismissed. Dillough and Barker are to be dismissed, and Barker on the 31st December, and Barker a month later. An effort will be made to have Barker retained on the force, this friends claiming that nothing has been proven against him.

Shakopee, Minn., Dec. 17.—A dark deal, involving three deaths and shrouded in deep mystery, was discovered this afternoon in Shakopee by neighbors looking through a window and seeing John Spearman, a man 67 years old, sitting in a chair by the kitchen stove, dead. On investigation the old man's wife was found dead in a corner of the sitting room, with her skull crushed and the head torn from her head. Upstairs in bed lay the lame grandson, a lad of twelve years, dead, with his head encased to the pillow by blood. Mrs. Spearman lay in a pool of blood, but nowhere could spatters of blood be found upon furniture or walls, nor could a weapon that looked like the two violent deaths be found, though a hatchet lay near the kitchen stove but there were no bloodstains upon it. Spearman sat in a chair without coat or vest, with his bare feet upon the kitchen stove hearth and head thrown back as is asleep. The number probably occurred last Saturday evening, for the boy, who assisted in serving mass at St. Mary's church, was not there Sunday. The coroner's inquest will be held when Coroner Hirsch returns from Minneapolis, and may throw some light on the case. Some think Spearman murdered his wife and grandson, George Russell, whose mother lives in Minneapolis, and then suicide. Others talk of a triple murder for money, but from appearances that is improbable. Spearman lived in a comfortable story-and-a-half stone house, eight blocks from the centre of the town, and men who have known him for thirty-five years deny that he was quarrelsome or abusive to his wife. He was a retired farmer in comfortable circumstances, but very penurious.

## NORTHWEST NEWS.

Frederick and Arthur Knight, father and son, who were arrested on their farm, in the municipality of Springfield, on Monday evening, on a charge of stealing cattle, preferred by another farmer, Wm. Garbutt, were arraigned before Col. Peebles for preliminary trial this morning. Mr. McLean, of the Attorney General's department, appeared for the prosecution, while the prisoners were defended by N. F. Haged, Q. C., and Mr. Bonner. Several witnesses were examined, and at its conclusion his worship thought a case had been made out and sent the accused up for trial.

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The Woodlands agricultural society offers for 1891 are: J. Hunter, president; W. Dawson, 1st vice-president; T. Scott, 2nd vice-president; C. Stewart, secretary; G. Nicholl, G. Balfour, G. Linnett, J. Scott, A. Hayry, S. Porteous, A. J. H. Proctor, committee; F. Robertson and W. Scott, auditors. The date of exhibition is 1891 is Wednesday, Oct. 7.

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Mr. Principal Sparling is meeting with good success in his labors through the provinces in behalf of the financial interests of Wesley college. He and Rev. Prof. Stewart spend their Sundays in preaching at outside points for the benefit of the college. For example, the Principal spent a Sunday recently at Port Arthur, where he had the satisfaction of raising somewhat more than the amount apportioned to the town, and Rev. Prof. Stewart visited last Sunday, the Cypress River circuit, where the people at three appointments gave \$117, the sum they were asked to raise being \$56.

Mr. Chas. Robertson of St. Mary's, Ont., went east last night with his son John, who became insane on the train at Regina, twelve days ago. The unfortunate young man has been living at Prince Albert, and was on his way to spend Christmas with his parents at St. Mary's when his mind gave way. He has been studying hard, and has a notion that electricity is playing havoc with everything about him. Robertson was confined in the Brandon jail for ten days, and Governor Nixon came as far as the city with him yesterday.

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## LOCAL NEWS

A merry Christmas to all.

Peace on earth, good will to men.

Mr. W. B. McLellan, late of Winnipeg, has leased the Revere house at Deloraine.

Amongst the many who have left to spend the holidays in Ontario was Ald. G. R. Coldwell.

The Hon. Jas. A. Smart has returned from a visit to his old home in Brockville, Ont.

Mr. J. B. Henderson was elected Mayor of Carberry at the recent municipal elections.

The brethren of Pilot Mound intend organizing an Oddfellows Lodge in that town shortly.

Mr. A. R. Irvin, customs broker and insurance agent, is spending his holidays with friends in St. Paul.

Mr. J. D. Bowley, accompanied by his children, left last week for Alabama where his husband is at present working.

Dr. J. Y. McLachlan, of Toronto, has decided to move to Carberry, Man., for the purpose of practising his profession.

Mr. E. Hughes left on Tuesday evening to partake of his Christmas turkey and plum pudding with friends in Regina.

The manager of the Bank of British North America has decided not to move into the new building until after the holidays.

The Manitoba Dairy Association will hold their annual meeting in Portage la Prairie, on Wednesday, the 15th of January.

At the raffle on Saturday evening, William Leybourne was the winner of J. W. Cowan's pony. Mr. Leybourne sold the animal for \$45 on Monday.

The entertainment to be given by the children of the Presbyterian Sabbath school this evening promises to be very entertaining. Don't forget to see it.

Mr. C. O. Roberts returned from Winnipeg, on Saturday, after a few days stay in that city. To the surprise of his friends he returned without bringing a life partner.

Rapid City Reporter. Married by Rev. Mr. Colter, at the Queen's hotel, Mr. Manley Burns, of Rapid City, to Miss Johanna Barnes, formerly of Brandon.

Messrs. Crossley & Hunter, the celebrated evangelists, are said to have added 482 to the church membership of the different denominations during their stay at Portage la Prairie.

Up to the first of the present month there were 2,550 cars of Manitoba wheat inspected at Port Arthur. This 1,664,000 bushels which is but a very small quantity of the twelve millions we were supposed to send out.

In 1871 Winnipeg had but one school house and one teacher. During the next year there has been sixty-one teachers employed and the school houses number thirteen with sixty-one departments.

Mr. Herrie, M.P.P., has reported to the Tribune that notwithstanding the bad last summer in the neighbourhood of Bonsor, it is expected there will be fully 300,000 bushels of No. 2 hard marketed in that bag this winter.

F. E. Michaels, Divisional Supt. of the N. P. & M., was in the city Monday evening and expressed himself to a Mail representative as well pleased with the patronage extended to the road by the citizens of Brandon.

Mrs. Russell gave a concert on last Thursday evening to her class of boys, in the rooms over L. R. Strome's store. It proved to be a great success and those who attended hope that it will be repeated in the near future.

We regret to learn that Dr. Anderson, of Wawanesa, is at present laid up with an attack of fever. He was so low last Friday night that Dr. Fleming of this city, was telegraphed for and he attended on him all Saturday.

The Free Press has the following to say of one of Brandon's well known vocalists who appeared before a Winnipeg audience last week for the first time: "Mr. Atchley has a magnificent basso which he knows how to use so as to show its beauty; he was deservedly encores."

The Winnipeg Free Press Christmas number of twenty-six pages is a credit not only to that office, but to the journalistic profession of the province. The merchants and business men of Winnipeg are certainly under heavy obligations to the enterprising journal for the manner in which they have been written up in this number.

The members of the congregation of the English church have as usual gone to considerable trouble in decorating their place of worship for this festive season of the year. The services in the church to-day promise to prove to be more than ordinarily interesting. It is to be hoped that the new rector will be greeted by large congregations to-day.

Dr. McInnes, of Edmonton, brother of W. S. McInnes, dentist of this city, made a stay of a day in town last week. The gentleman is on his way to Vienna, Austria, to take a medical course in the renowned college of that city. He will also spend some months in Edinburgh and London in pursuit of further medical knowledge. The Doctor does not expect to return before next fall.

The Bishop of Rupert's Land was in the city on Sunday to induct the Rev. Geo. Rogers, as rector of St. Matthew's church. His Lordship preached both morning and evening to large congregations. In the course of his remarks on the prospects of the parish, his Lordship noted the marked substantial improvement in the city since his visit of twelve months ago.

Mrs. Gilbert, relict of the late Dr. Gilbert of Carberry, has again met with a sad loss in the death of her son George.

A short time ago a car at the Shoal Lake flouring mill was broken into and twenty eight hundred of flour stolen therefrom.

Over two hundred passengers left Winnipeg on Friday evening's excursion train, most of whom were going to Ontario, to spend Christmas.

A number of lady teachers have made their parents and other friends in the city happier by returning to spend their vacation in town.

At the election on Tuesday the 16th in the municipality of Oakland, the "Local Tax Law" which was submitted to the electors in that municipality was easily defeated.

As an indication of what good working cattle are worth, we may mention that at Wilcock's monthly sale last week, a very fine yoke of four years-olds brought one hundred and forty dollars each.

Farmers are beginning to turn their attention to sheep raising. Quite a number of those coming in to do business last week were making enquiries as to where some well bred ewes could be obtained.

Road-master Dunn, of the N.P. and M. was in the city, during the week. He has been a resident of Minneapolis, for some years past, but expects now that he has charge of the Brandon-Morris branch, to remove his family here in the spring.

During the threshing season more than one of the threshers from Portage la Prairie gave us to understand that they intended selling out on the much vaunted and purchase between here and Virden. This intuition it would appear is not confined to the threshers alone, as we met with a Portage Plains man, named Gibbs, last week who had just purchased a section of land not far from Minto.

Todd and the Great Northern Railway are to the front with their cheap annual excursions to all points in Ontario and Quebec. Good for three months with privilege of stopping off where and when like befitting any coming. Tickets \$4 for the round trip from Brandon and your choice of route through St. Paul and Chicago. By using these Excursion tickets, Mr. Todd can give a very cheap rate to the old country. See him before you buy.

Commercial. In Manitoba there has not been much change in the situation and the general disposition is to hold off, awaiting an improvement in outside markets. The slow state of outside markets, combined with the usual drag about holiday times, will probably tend to keep things quiet until 1891 has been ushered in, after which time there is likely to be a sharp improvement, if the financial situation eases up at all. There was not much done on the Winnipeg exchange during the week. There were a good many more bids than transactions, bids generally being considerably below the views of holders.

The other day a curiosity was exhibited at Winnipeg in the shape of a large wasp's nest. The nest was found by Mr. James McConnell, of Hullett, and measures 5 ft in circumference. It is on exhibition at Mr. F. McTeal's jewelry store. It is perfectly shaped, almost round, and built on a branch an inch in diameter, which runs directly through the centre.

The Man's says he'll "bet his bottom dollar" the inhabitants all left that nest before the enterprising jeweller hung it up in his store.

The Winnipeg Tribune, like its coterie, the Free Press, has issued a Christmas number. Unlike the Free Press, however, the Tribune does not devote the greater part of its pages to Winnipeg. Outside towns and cities, come in for a fair share of the "writing up" in the issue. Brandon is given a two column send off by the pen of Mr. A. T. Lowe. The article is well written and will help to spread Brandon's fame amongst the readers of that paper. We would like to know, however, what the people of Brandon have done to the publishers of the Tribune, or their engravers that either of them should have sent out to its readers such a horrid caricature on their chief magistrate, Mayor Kelly. We would warn our readers who are not acquainted with our worthy mayor, against taking this as having a fair, or even the remotest resemblance to Mr. Kelly. His nearest or best friend cannot find a single trace of the features of that gentleman in the cut that is presented in the Tribune and labelled "Mayor Kelly, of Brandon. It is an insult to the electorate to try and pawn off this miserable affair as the portrait of the man who has been on two occasions their choice as mayor.

There was a keen contest for the Reeve of the municipality of Woodworth, between W. J. Hellwell and Mr. Thos. Frame. The two gentlemen have each occupied the position for some years and each of them have filled the position with credit to himself and the benefit of his constituents. The result of the election on the 16th was that Mr. Frame secured the coveted position. There were also contests in wards 3 and 4 in the same municipality. In the former Mr. Wm. Shaw was elected as constable, while in the latter Mr. Archibald McLean headed the poll.

Markets. Wheat has kept creeping up slowly until on Tuesday it reached 66cts. a bushel for good samples of No. 2 Oats still kept at the old figure of 25cts. a bushel. Barley is a little stiffer, some having readily brought 30cts. a bushel. In the meat line there is no change, a great deal having been brought in by farmers and peddled from house to house at our last quotations. Poultry, particularly turkeys, has been much more plentiful and as in other years just before the holidays prices are not as high as they were two or three weeks ago. Butter is very plentiful and there is no change from our last week's quotations. Eggs are still scarce and houses who neglected packing in the fall find some inconvenience in obtaining the supply for holiday use.

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The employees on the N. P. and M. were made happy on last Monday by the appearance of the pay car at the city. There is nothing like having the cash to buy your Christmas cheer.

It is reported by settlers in the northern part of the municipality of Dally that timber wolves are quite plentiful in that neighborhood. It is only within ten days that a man driving a horse and accompanied by a dog, had to leave the trail on account of meeting a pack of a dozen of the animals.

The October and November numbers of the Western World contain views of Brandon and vicinity with a descriptive article of the rise and growth of the city and county, written by Ald. Wastie. The two numbers will be sent post paid to any address on sending 22c in stamps to Cliffe's Book-store, Brandon.

They are very nice to send east.

Monday's Free Press says: Ottawa-Mr. Hugh Sutherland left to-night for Winnipeg, via Chicago. Mr. Stever Tupper has also gone west, but will remain a few days in Toronto. They have had several interviews with members of the government and appear in excellent spirits regarding the prospects of the Hudson Bay road, but still refuse to talk.

The credit sale of farm implements, household effects, etc., to be held at Jas. Cochren's, on Sec. 28, 10, 23, Hillview P.O., on next Wednesday, the 30th instant promises to be one of the best yet held in this district. The horses, cows and young stock are good, while the implements are in first-class condition. Mr. Cochren intends returning to Ontario the sale is absolutely unreserved.

A number of the young folk started to work out the multiplication question given in last week's issue. It did not take long for them to find out that it was more of a task than they bargained for. They are not the first to get foiled on such questions. In this case a person working ten hours a day and making one figure every minute would have constant work for over twenty-eight years before he had finished.

On Monday night of last week while some of the men in Mr. J. S. Langton's tailoring establishment were working to catch up with the Christmas orders, a lamp was accidentally upset. Coats and other garments were at once utilized to smother the flames, but without effect. The fire ran up a fur coat which was hanging on the wall, and a general conflagration seemed inevitable. This was averted by Mr. James Grieve, one of the employees, seizing the burning lamp and hurling it out of the window. Much credit is due that gentleman for his quick and presence of mind. We regret to say that he will be compelled to lay off work for three or four weeks.

Our Eastern friends can have no conception of the exceptionally fine weather that we in Manitoba have been enjoying for the past six or seven weeks. It really would seem as if the clerk of the weather had taken pity upon us for the wet spell we had during harvest. During the past week there was serious talk of having the watering carts put out on the streets as the dust was flying just as bad as it did during the summer. The pessimist may shake his head and say "We will suffer for it later on," but the people on enjoying it just the same. Just think of it, here we are at Christmas and yet the air is as balmy as it would be in the month of April, the sun as bright, no snow and some of the citizens have discarded their overcoats. A great, great country this Manitoba of ours.

The other day a curiosity was exhibited at Winnipeg in the shape of a large wasp's nest. The nest was found by Mr. James McConnell, of Hullett, and measures 5 ft in circumference. It is on exhibition at Mr. F. McTeal's jewelry store. It is perfectly shaped, almost round, and built on a branch an inch in diameter, which runs directly through the centre.

The Winnipeg Tribune, like its coterie, the Free Press, has issued a Christmas number. Unlike the Free Press, however, the Tribune does not devote the greater part of its pages to Winnipeg. Outside towns and cities, come in for a fair share of the "writing up" in the issue. Brandon is given a two column send off by the pen of Mr. A. T. Lowe. The article is well written and will help to spread Brandon's fame amongst the readers of that paper. We would like to know, however, what the people of Brandon have done to the publishers of the Tribune, or their engravers that either of them should have sent out to its readers such a horrid caricature on their chief magistrate, Mayor Kelly. We would warn our readers who are not acquainted with our worthy mayor, against taking this as having a fair, or even the remotest resemblance to Mr. Kelly. His nearest or best friend cannot find a single trace of the features of that gentleman in the cut that is presented in the Tribune and labelled "Mayor Kelly, of Brandon. It is an insult to the electorate to try and pawn off this miserable affair as the portrait of the man who has been on two occasions their choice as mayor.

There was a keen contest for the Reeve of the municipality of Woodworth, between W. J. Hellwell and Mr. Thos. Frame. The two gentlemen have each occupied the position for some years and each of them have filled the position with credit to himself and the benefit of his constituents. The result of the election on the 16th was that Mr. Frame secured the coveted position. There were also contests in wards 3 and 4 in the same municipality. In the former Mr. Wm. Shaw was elected as constable, while in the latter Mr. Archibald McLean headed the poll.

Markets. Wheat has kept creeping up slowly until on Tuesday it reached 66cts. a bushel for good samples of No. 2 Oats still kept at the old figure of 25cts. a bushel. Barley is a little stiffer, some having readily brought 30cts. a bushel. In the meat line there is no change, a great deal having been brought in by farmers and peddled from house to house at our last quotations. Poultry, particularly turkeys, has been much more plentiful and as in other years just before the holidays prices are not as high as they were two or three weeks ago. Butter is very plentiful and there is no change from our last week's quotations. Eggs are still scarce and houses who neglected packing in the fall find some inconvenience in obtaining the supply for holiday use.

The Bishop of Rupert's Land was in the city on Sunday to induct the Rev. Geo. Rogers, as rector of St. Matthew's church. His Lordship preached both morning and evening to large congregations. In the course of his remarks on the prospects of the parish, his Lordship noted the marked substantial improvement in the city since his visit of twelve months ago.

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Mr. Geo. Elliott, merchant of Hami-ton, was in town on Tuesday.

Mr. J. Gurn, of Calgary, who has been visiting in the city, left for home to-day.

Mr. Thos. Todd, clerk of the municipality of Woodworth, was in the city on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Talbott, of this city, are spending the holidays with friends near Souris.

Mr. Jas. Grierson, of Alexander, intends sending in three of his children to attend the McKee Academy immediately after vacation.

The proprietors and salesmen in the various stores have during the past few days been putting in their best efforts to make their respective show windows as attractive as possible. The result is that few of the grown-up people, much less the juvenile part, that crowd the street have been able to pass many of these decorated windows without taking a long "peep" in them.

The many friends and acquaintances of Mr. O. V. S. Fraser, who has been a resident of this city for a few years past, were much shocked on learning that Ald. Edgar had received a telegram announcing the death of that young gentleman. The death was very sudden and occurred at Edinburgh, Scotland. Mr. Fraser, during his residence here, had become possessed of considerable real estate in the district. He was a partner of Mr. Edgar in the grain business.

There is great excitement among the medical men of Calgary. The six doctors of that town formed an association, of the rules of which was that they would not accept anything less than \$5 from any benefit or insurance company for a certificate of health. This provision Dr. Henry George afterwards broke, whereupon the other five doctors met together, excommunicated Dr. George from membership and decided that no member of the association would consult with Dr. George or render him any assistance in his professional work.

Our butchers have not put on as much style in the way of dressing up their shops as they have at previous Christmas times. No one, however, who visits any of these shops but what must be struck with astonishment at the grand display of choice meat and poultry that each has on hand. Few or any of the shambles of meat that are hanging in the shambles of the butchers have received any other feed than that they have got from roaming the prairies, and yet in point of excellence the meat will compare favorably with the stall-fed beef of Ontario. No one who has got the "siller" in his pocket need go without, in this city, the proverbial roast beef and plum pudding for his Christmas dinner.

Free Press: "Major Morris, of the Salvation Army, attended the services in Grace church, last evening. At the request of the pastor, he addressed the prayer meeting held after the public service. He spoke in a very earnest and telling manner, gave expression to liberal and fraternal sentiments, made a favorable impression upon those present, and was kindly greeted by many of the members of the church. Rev. Mr. Allen reciprocated the major's prayers and good wishes, bearing hearty testimony to the good works of the Salvation Army, particularly in the establishment and maintenance of rescue homes, and in extending a helping hand to prisoners when discharged after serving out their sentences.

The concerts on Monday and Tuesday evenings at St. Joseph's Convent proved as usual, to be grand successes. The playing and singing of the pupils of the good sisters of the convent were the principal events of the evening. Whatever else can be said about the curriculum of the school, under the supervision of the Mother Superior and her assistants, there can be but one verdict about their music teaching and that is, it is of the very best kind. To see three or four little dots ranging in age from six to eight years sit down together at a piano and play some of the difficult pieces that were rendered during the evenings of the concerts, was proof positive that considerable pains must have been taken with their tuition. The older pupils taking part in the entertainment showed to much better advantage in the pieces that were assigned to them. The sympathy of the audience was, however, with the juveniles taking part in the instrumental and vocal parts. The training of the voices of the youthful singers as shown in solo duets, trios and in full chorus, reflects the highest credit on their teachers. Few who attended these entertainments, but what will spurn their lives, make an effort to be present at the next ones given.

## CARD OF THANKS.

Mr. Horace Buck, Agent Canada & London Fire Insur. Co., Brandon.

Sir, I have to thank you for cheaply insuring today in settlement of my loss by fire carried by fire insurance in your company. I wish to express satisfaction at the prompt manner in which loss has been paid and am very grateful. Your company has expressed every desire to assume all their liability under policy held by me. Yours truly, FRED. H. HESSON.

S. HANNA, Griswold P. O.

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FOR THE RELIEF AND CURE

OF NERVOUS DISEASES,

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AND ALL NERVOUS DISEASES. ESTABLISHED 1874.

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LARGE SHOW WINDOW: HERE THE

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will display THOUSANDS of useful articles suitable for THE HOLIDAY SEASON. Splendid warm FUR COATS for ladies and Gentlemen.

FUR CAPS, GAUNTLETS, CAPES, Etc., for ladies and children.

SILKS for Dresses, nothing makes a nicer or more acceptable present than a nice Silk Dress. Handsome Wool Scarfs and Shawls, for old or young.

OUR - SPECIAL - FERNAND - KID - CLOVES,

all the best made, also full lines of Kid Mitts, Silk Mitts, etc. Thousands of Silk and Lawn Handkerchiefs, especially for the Xmas trade, fancy materials of every kind at lowest prices.

PLUSHES, SATINS, ETC., ALL SHADES.

Boys' Overcoats, with stylish Cape attached. Splendid range

GENT'S FUR, KID, BUCK, ANTELOPE, DOG SKIN AND OTHER MITTS AND CLOVES, IMMENSE ASSORTMENT.

CARPETS, RUGS, CURTAINS, &c

all makes, for the home, most useful and acceptable presents. We invite your attention to all the above lines, they are worthy your inspection.

OUR STORE

DURING THE NEXT

TEN DAYS

will without doubt present the most attractive appearance of any in this country. A great many lines will be cleared out at very great bargains.

COME AND SEE.

SPECIALTIES - BY - EXPRESS:

Beaver Capes, Seal and Beaver Gauntlets, Seal Beaver, Otter and Sable Mitts and Caps, Fur Bows, etc.

ALL FUR COATS AND MANTLES VERY CHEAP.

Wishing you all the compliments of the season and a Happy New Year.

We are, faithfully yours,

F. NATION & Co., Rosser Avenue, Corner Leader Lane.

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BRANDON, MAN.

Our Stock is the largest and best assortured in the Province, and

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Splendid Brussels Carpets!

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